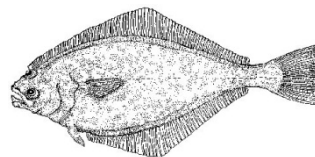

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
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Date: March 8, 2012
Time: 10:30 a.m.

2012 SOUTHEAST ALASKA GROUND FISH BYCATCH REGULATIONS APPLICABLE IN THE COMMERCIAL HALIBUT FISHERY OCCURRING IN STATE WATERS

Sitka...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning regulations that apply during the 2012 Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) commercial halibut fishery. This news release details bycatch regulations and allowances for state waters of Southeast Alaska east of 144°00.00' W. longitude. The IFQ halibut fishery opens at 12:00 noon March 17, 2012 and closes at 12:00 noon November 7, 2012.

Rockfish Possession and Landing Requirements (5 AAC 28.171)

A vessel or Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) and black rockfish taken. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish.

In the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts only, a vessel or CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish species (excluding thornyheads) taken.

All rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish retained due to full retention requirements may be kept for a person's own use however the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

Federal Demersal Shelf Rockfish Landing Requirements:

Fishermen are reminded that **full retention of demersal shelf rockfish is also required in federal waters east of 140° W. longitude (Southeast Outside District)**. DSR taken in federal waters must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket and DSR in excess of bycatch allowances must be reported as bycatch overage. DSR overage from federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but cannot be sold or enter commerce. Full retention regulations for DSR do not apply in federal waters of the Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS).

Lingcod

Lingcod bycatch in the halibut longline fishery is allocated by management area. Lingcod management areas include IBS, East Yakutat (EYKT) Section, Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section, Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector (Figure 1). Lingcod catches will be closely monitored, and fishermen are advised that area closures may occur on short notice as allocations are taken. Closures will be announced by news release as well as during the United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report and National Weather Service broadcast. For information on lingcod bycatch status and closures, contact the Sitka Area Office at 907-747-6688 or the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

Groundfish Bycatch Limits for the IFQ Halibut Fishery in State Waters: Percentage indicates amount that may be sold and is based on round weight of halibut and round weight of bycatch species.

SPECIES	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS 0-3 MILES	INTERNAL WATERS NSEI/SSEI
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10%, full retention is required. These restrictions also apply in federal waters east of 140° W. longitude.	10%, full retention is required.
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish (state and federal waters)	15% in aggregate, full retention required for black rockfish only.	15% in aggregate, full retention is required.
All other rockfish and thornyheads	5% in aggregate.	5% in aggregate, full retention required for all rockfish, except thornyheads.
Lingcod (state and federal waters)	<u>Longline fishery</u> - 20% EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, and SSEOC, 5% IBS, 27" minimum size limit. <u>Jig fishery</u> - 0%, no retention.	<u>Longline fishery</u> - 10% NSEI, 5% SSEIW, 27" minimum size limit. <u>Jig fishery</u> - 0%, no retention.
Pacific Cod	20%.	20%.
Spiny Dogfish	<u>Longline fishery</u> - 35%. <u>Jig fishery</u> - 20%.	<u>Longline fishery</u> - 35%. <u>Jig fishery</u> - 20%.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.	0%, no retention.
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate.	20% in aggregate.

For information on the halibut fishery bycatch allowances in federal waters refer to: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/rr/tables/tabl10.pdf> and <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/2012/hal2012.pdf> or contact NOAA enforcement at (907) 747-6940 (Sitka), (907) 586-7225 (Juneau), (907) 772-2285 (Petersburg), or (907) 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

Harvest of bait by commercial permit holders in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska:

A CFEC interim use permit holder may take groundfish in waters of Alaska, for use as bait in waters of Alaska, in the commercial fishery for which the permit is held. A person who takes groundfish for bait during a fishing trip and uses the bait during that trip, must report the bait taken by species and estimated weight on the fish ticket prepared for that fishing trip. Groundfish harvested for bait shall be reported on the fish ticket using fish ticket delivery code 92. **Sablefish, lingcod, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may not be taken for bait or used for bait (5AAC 28.190).**

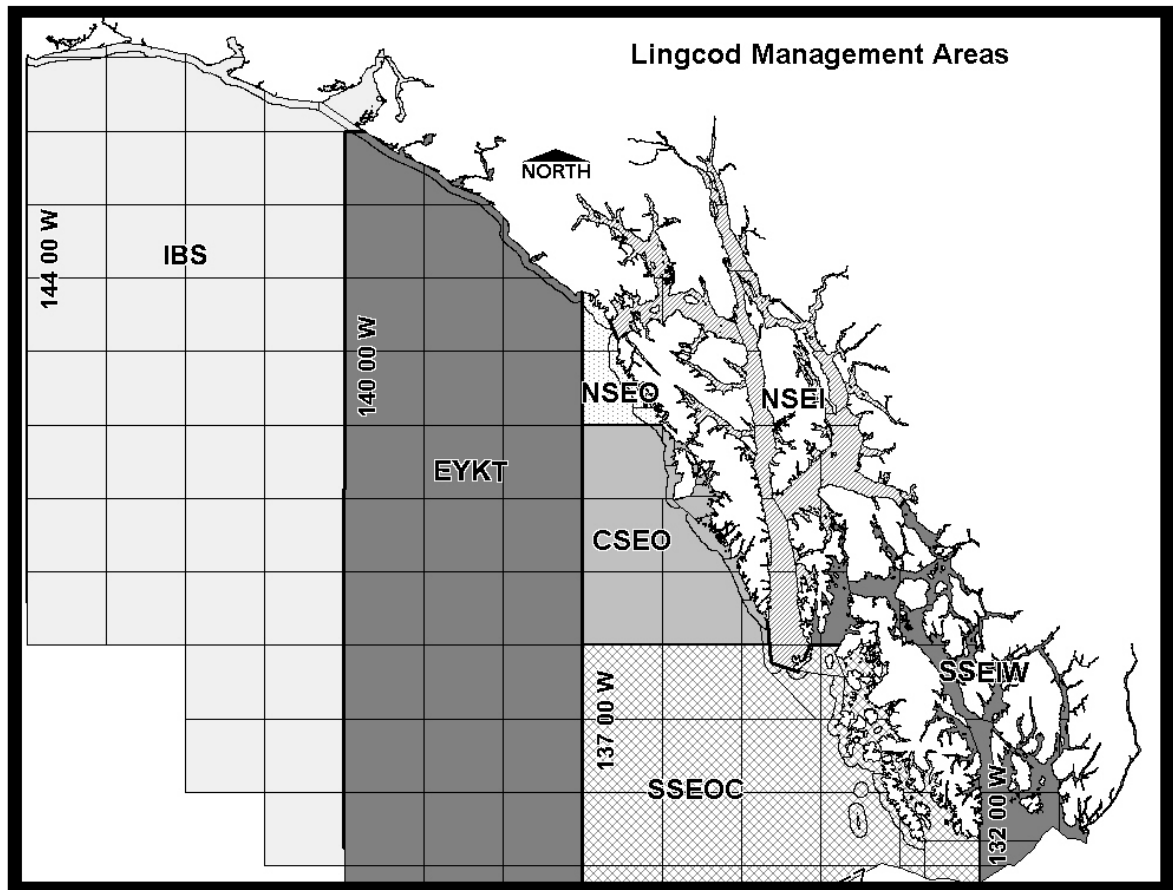


FIGURE 1. SOUTHEAST ALASKA LINGCOD MANAGEMENT AREAS.

This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of Lingcod Management Area boundaries, refer to 5AAC 28.105.